



# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais  
Superintendent

1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Nancy W. Busbee, PhD, Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Accountability

**DATE:** December 9, 2014

**RE:** The ACT<sup>®</sup> and Accommodations for High School Students with Disabilities

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has been working with ACT, Inc. to prepare for the administration of The ACT<sup>®</sup> College Readiness Assessment (The ACT) in spring 2015 to eleventh-grade students. This memorandum provides initial guidance regarding the provision of allowable accommodations on The ACT to students with documented disabilities.

To meet state and federal requirements, all students, including students with disabilities, must participate in The ACT, unless a student's IEP has determined that the student should take an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards. Students with disabilities may use State-Allowed Accommodations on The ACT, which will result in scores that will be used in state and federal accountability reporting. The list of accommodations that will result in a score that can be used for accountability purposes will be sent to districts as soon as it is finalized.

In addition to meeting both state and federal accountability requirements, an added benefit of the contract with ACT, Inc. is that The ACT scores may also be reported to colleges, universities, and scholarship-awarding organizations as part of a student's application to an institution of higher education. In order for students with disabilities who use accommodations for testing to take advantage of this benefit, ACT, Inc. requires that schools submit a Request for ACT-Approved Accommodations. The procedures to request ACT-Approved Accommodations will be provided to schools by ACT, Inc. Initial guidance is being provided at this time (attachment) so that schools may begin communicating options to parents.

We appreciate your patience as the SCDE launches a new high school assessment. If you have any questions regarding The ACT, please contact Kevin Fatica at 803-734-8282, or by e-mail at [KJFatica@ed.sc.gov](mailto:KJFatica@ed.sc.gov). If you have any questions regarding testing accommodations, please contact Anne Mruz at 803-734-8034, or by e-mail at [AMruz@ed.sc.gov](mailto:AMruz@ed.sc.gov). If you have any questions regarding special education services, please contact Peter Keup at 803-734-6771, or by e-mail at [PKeup@ed.sc.gov](mailto:PKeup@ed.sc.gov). This memorandum and the attachment will be forwarded to District Test Coordinators and District Directors of Special Education Programs following the distribution to district superintendents.

Attachment